

Management response form



Audit Wales use only	
Audited body	Bridgend County Borough Council
Audit name	Planning and Development service
Issue date	November 2025

Ref	Recommendation	Commentary on planned actions	Completion date for planned actions	Responsible officer (title)	Audit Wales only
R1	<p>Resource management</p> <p>The Council should demonstrate it understands the resource requirements of the Planning and Development service based on its demands and capacity to help inform resourcing decisions.</p>	<p>A Ear Marked Reservice fund (EMR) is proposed to provide a short term resourcing solution to allow recruitment of vacant posts and develop a revised structure including additional back office and technical roles to support the planning function and free up other officers.</p>	<p>Mid-January 2026 for EMR Qtr 4 25/26 for equalisation fund and agree fee targets for 26/27</p>	<p>Group Manager Planning & Development Services in association with Finance Team</p>	

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		<p>Introduce an equalisation fund to ensure that any income surplus is ring fenced to the Planning & Development Service.</p> <p>Model fee income and agree targets to establish a long-term funding model for the service</p> <p>The service will also be supported to maximise its use of resources through business process reengineering and through the emerging use of AI.</p>			

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R2	<p>Risk management The Council should ensure the service identifies, manages, and monitors its risks to help the Council understand how service risks may impact delivery of the service's responsibilities and the Council's priorities set out in its Corporate Plan.</p>	<p>Set up and maintain a service risk register outlining current and predicted work streams together with resource requirements cross referend to the Council's wider aims.</p> <p>The risk register will form part of a wider service plan (see below) to be updated annually and reported to the Development Control Committee and Corporate Management Board to ensure that the risks are identified and shared with senior management, members and other services.</p>	January – March 2026	Group Manager Planning & Development Services	

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R3	<p>Service planning arrangements</p> <p>The Council should comply with its Performance Management Framework and ensure the Planning and Development service has a service plan.</p>	<p>A Service Plan will be developed outlining the functions, responsibilities, aims and targets for the Service. The plan will also incorporate a risk register and will be informed by an annual self-evaluation.</p>	<p>January – March 2026</p>	<p>Group Manager Planning & Development Services</p>	
R4	<p>Performance monitoring and reporting</p> <p>The Council should ensure it manages, monitors, and reports the activity and performance of the Planning and Development Service. This should be supported with</p>	<p>Re-introduce the planning performance framework and report annually to the Development Control Committee. The report will be prepared alongside the RLDP Annual Monitoring Report and Annual Performance Report.</p>	<p>Report to be compiled and complete by Autumn 2026</p>	<p>Group Manager Planning & Development Services</p>	

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	up-to-date performance information to help improve the Council's understanding of the service's performance.	The report will include statistical data as well as commentary and updates on the risk register and targets set in the Service Plan			